

*Pre-Incaic Huamachuco. Survey and Excavations in the Region of Huamachuco and Cajabamba.* By THEODORE D. McCOWN. [University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 39, No. 4.] (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1945. Pp. 223-400. Plates, figures, and maps. \$2.00.)

Dr. McCown's report on an archaeological survey of the Huamachuco-Cajabamba region of the interior of northern Peru represents the results of one of the ten projects of the Institute of Andean Research, sponsored by the Coördinator of Inter-American Affairs in 1941 and 1942.

As a technical study on a region in which no modern archaeology had been done prior to McCown's visit, the report will be most useful to Peruvianists. Work at Marca Huamachuco and lesser sites in the area produced evidence for two major periods—Middle and Late Huamachuco. In the former, high, multi-storied galleries, round structures and defense walls of coursed rubble masonry are associated with pottery indicating contemporaneity with the Middle Period of the Chimu Coast. This is followed by an inferior style of stone masonry and wares pointing to contemporaneity with the Chimu (Late Chimu) period of North Coastal history.

The most puzzling (and to documentary historians probably the most interesting) site in the area is the walled town of Viracochapampa, near modern Huamachuco. This city, planned as a unit, is a rectangle, 580 meters long by 565 meters wide, cut by a main street and containing plazas, courts and gallery structures. McCown concludes, on the basis of historical accounts, regularity of plan, and architectural similarity to Pikillajta, near Cuzco, that Viracochapampa was the work of the Incas. This view is held in spite of the acknowledged and puzzling lack of Inca or Cuzco-influenced ceramics. A further drawback is the fact that Pikillajta is itself somewhat of a puzzle in the field of Cuzco archaeology, for it is not by any means a typical Inca construction nor has there been surely found thereat a single piece of pottery of Inca type. The identification of Viracochapampa as an Inca city, built for concentration of the local population in a single place thus seems at least open to question.

This report is not concerned, as far as we now know, with one of the historically basically important areas of Peru, but it is a model of thoroughness in technical detail combined with unusual readability and thoughtful analysis in sections devoted to comment and summary. It fills a long empty gap in our knowledge of the northern highlands of Peru.

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